

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00458 111514Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EA-10  
/065 W

-----117553 112339Z /64

R 111445Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6549  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0458

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PINT, UR, JA  
SUBJECT: JAPANESE REPORTS ON BREZHNEV AND POLYANSKIY

REF: MOSCOW 00225

1. IN A CONVERSATION ON JANUARY 10 WITH VISITING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR. CHIEF OF THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY'SOVIET DESK SAID THAT ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO SOVIETS TOLD THE JAPANESE THAT FOR "CONVINCING REASONS" BREZHNEV WOULD BE UNABLE TO RECEIVE VISITING JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA. UPON THIS ARRIVAL SONODA WAS TOLD BY GROMYKO THAT BREZHNEV HAD INFLUENZA AND, HAVING RETURNED TO WORK (AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO HIS JANUARY 5 APPEARANCE AT AWARDS CEREMONY FOR SUSLOV ET AL (REFTEL)), HAD SUFFERED A RELAPSE WHICH CAUSED HIS DOCTORS TO ORDER FURTHER REST.

2. TOGO ALSO SAID THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO POLYANSKIY DID NOT RETURN TO MOSCOW FOR THE CURRENT SOVIET-JAPANESE TALKS. IN FACT, HE SAID, POLYANSKIY HAS NOT BEEN BACK TO MOSCOW SINCE HE WAS POSTED TO JAPAN IN 1976 AFTER HIS REMOVAL FROM THE POLITBURO.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT JAPANESE  
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REPORT ON BREZHNEV'S HEALTH. WE TAKE TOGO'S REPORT ON POLYANSKIY AS GRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF HIS CURRENT DISFAVOR.  
MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014